

CLAIMS

1. A cock comprising a rotating key, the key of which (1) rotates in a tubular housing (3) of a barrel (2) where the key has been axially introduced through an end of the housing up into an axial position determined by blocking means (13, 14), the side wall of the housing including passages (4, 5) which open into an area (B) of the housing through apertures while the key is designed with passage(s) (6) for blocking these apertures or establishing a communication between certain apertures according to service positions of the key during a rotation of the key, the cock including in another area (C) of the housing, means (so-called indexing means) in order to tactilely tell the operator that the key has arrived in a service position where it establishes a communication, these indexing means comprising stubs (10) and notches (12) distributed over the faces facing the key and the housing so that during a rotation of the key, the stubs penetrate the notches when the key arrives in a service position and may only emerge therefrom when a substantial force is exerted on the key to rotate it, the key or the barrel being designed in order to allow the stubs to emerge from the notches by an elastic effect resulting from this force, the housing (3) including a closed base (7) which has a raised element (8) determining between it and the side wall of the housing, an annular groove (9), the key (3) having at its end a ring (10) which rotates in this groove, the stubs (11) and the notches (12) being formed on said raised element and said ring (10), characterized in that said ring (10) is elastically deformable in a plane transverse to the axis of rotation of the key, and in that the area (C) where the indexing means are found, has a reduced diameter relatively to the area (B) into which open said apertures.

2. The cock according to claim 1, said ring of which (10) is divided into arc sectors which are separated by cuts (13) and in which stubs or notches are formed.

3. The cock according to claim 2, said ring (10) of which is divided into two identical sectors (10a, 10b) each of which including a stub (11).

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4. The cock according to claim 2, said ring (10) of which is divided into four identical sectors (10c, 10d, 10e, 10f) each of which including a stub (11).

10 5. The cock according to claim 3 or 4, said raised element (8) of which is conformed laterally to form eight notches (12).

15 6. The cock according to any of claims 1 to 5, the area (C) of which, where the indexing means are found, has a reduced diameter relatively to the area (B) into which open said apertures.

20 7. The cock according to any of claims 1 to 6, the housing of which (3) has a cross-section which decreases from said end of the housing, and the key (1) has a general frustro-conical shape.

25 8. The cock according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein said raised element (8) has a regular profile consisting of a succession of convex sectors (8a) alternating with concave sectors (8b) forming said notches.

30 9. The cock according to any of claims 1 to 8, the key (1) of which is axially blocked in the housing (3) by penetration of an annular rib (13) formed on the key in a groove (14) formed in the side wall of the housing.

35 10. The cock according to any of preceding claims, the ring of which has a cross-section which is circular in the undeformed state and which becomes elliptical in the elastically deformed state.

11. The cock according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein, when the ring (10) is elastically deformed, a play  
(20) exists between the convexities (8a) of the raised element  
5 (8) and the ring and a play (21) exists between the ring and  
the wall of the housing of the barrel which is facing the  
ring.